

Application No.: 09/739,143
Supplemental Response Dated: February 13, 2006
Reply to Office Communication: December 8, 2005

MAT-8070US

Remarks/Arguments:

The Amendment filed on October 12, 2004, was previously objected to under 35 U.S.C. § 132 as introducing new matter. Applicants understand that the objection has been withdrawn.

Claim 25 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph. Applicants understand that the rejection has been withdrawn.

Claims 1-4, 9-12 and 17-20 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over LI (U.S. Patent No. 6,345,279). It is respectfully submitted, however, that these claims are patentable over the art of record for the reasons set forth below.

Applicants' invention relates to a method and apparatus for dividing document image data into plural portions. The data amount for each portion is controlled for a suitable amount for each portion. The renewed data is then output.

Applicants' invention, as recited by claim 1, thus includes features which are neither disclosed nor suggested by LI, namely:

... determining whether to divide a region ... according to dividing information that indicates whether a data amount of said region is subject to reduction ...

... processing ... sub-elements to reduce a data amount of the document-image data based on respective kinds of data of the sub-elements ...

These features are supported by the originally filed application at page 4, lines 10-12, and the Abstract, lines 9-12. No new matter has been added.

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Additional support is set forth in the originally filed application in Figures 1-4, page 9, lines 5-21, Figures 5-6, page 9, lines 25-28, Figures 7-8, page 9, line 29, and page 10, line 3, and page 10, lines 13-16.

LI is different because LI separates a multi-media document into "separated content items before proceeding".

Thus, in accordance with Applicants' claim 1, a region to be divided is determined. Dividing of the document image is performed by using dividing information. The data amount of sub-elements of the document image is reduced.

Claims 9 and 17, while not identical to claim 1, are similarly patentable over LI for reasons set forth above with regard to claim 1.

Additional claims have been amended and are supported by the originally filed application as follows:

Regarding claims 2, 10 and 18: See Figure 4 and page 9, lines 17-19.

Regarding claims 3, 11 and 19: See page 11, lines 25-31.

Regarding claims 4, 12 and 20: See page 19, lines 14-24.

Regarding claims 5, 6, 13, 14, 21 and 22: See Figure 14 and page 13, lines 29-32.

Regarding claims 7, 15 and 23: See Figure 16 and page 15, lines 8-11. Also see Figure 21 and page 15, line 30 through page 16, line 2.

Regarding claims 8, 16 and 24: See page 17, line 27 through page 18, line 8 and Figure 25.

No new matter has been added.

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In view of the previously submitted amendment and the remarks set forth above, the above-identified application is in condition for allowance, which action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,


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The Commissioner for Patents is hereby authorized to charge payment to Deposit Account No. 18-0350 of any fees associated with this communication.

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February 13, 2006 

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